

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 HA-05

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15

STR-07 CEA-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /138 W

-----119754 060449Z /15

R 041541Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4190

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, BGEN, EAID, EINV, EMIN, GV, US

SUBJECT: ISMAEL TOURE'S VIEWS ON HIS WASHINGTON VISIT

REF: STATE 79032 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DOMAIN MINISTER ISMAEL TOURE GAVE AMBASSADOR AND ECONOMIC OFFICER VERY POSITIVE RUNDOWN OF HIS WASHINGTON VISIT, MENTIONING PL-480, MIFERGUI-NIMBA, TRANS-GUINEAN RAILROAD, DABOLA PROJECT, SENEGAL/GAMBIA RIVER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EXIM-BANK. HE WAS VERY PLEASED AT THE WAY HIS VISIT HAD GONE AND WAS GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT AND PREPARATORY SPADE WORK BY DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY. END SUMMARY

2. ISMAEL TOURE CONVOKED AMBASSADOR APRIL 3 TO REPORT  
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POSITIVELY ABOUT HIS MARCH VISITS TO WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA.

A. HE SAID U.S. STEEL HAD CONVINCED HIM OF THEIR INTEREST IN MIFERGUI-NIMBA PROJECT AND WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IF MARKET FORECASTS WILL PERMIT. SAID U.S.S. HAS SOUGHT TO DELAY DECISION ON MIFERGUI-NIMBA PARTICIPATION SO AS TO SEE DIRECTION OF FUTURE DEVELOP-

MENT OF WORLD ECONOMY, BUT HE HAD GOT THEM TO AGREE TO GIVE THEIR DECISION THIS COMING JUNE. TOURE GAVE AMBASSADOR TABLE PREPARED BY U.S.S., OUTLINING PROPOSED FINANCING BREAKDOWN FOR PROJECT (BEING POUCHED WASHINGTON). OF \$730 MILLION TOTAL, GOG WAS TO PROVIDE \$280 MILLION AND GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA \$170 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURAL WORK. TOURE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE \$280 MILLION FIGURE. (COMMENT: THE QUESTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE IS CRUCIAL, ACCORDING TO U.S. STEEL TECHNICAL DIRECTOR FOR MINERAL RESOURCES VIRGIL HUFF, AND THE U.S.S. DECISION ON PARTICIPATION MAY HANG ON IT.) TOURE SAID A JOINT COMMISSION WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO PUT TOGETHER THE FINANCING IN THE NAME OF THE MIXED FOREIGN-GUINEAN MIFERGUI-NIMBA COMPANY, DRAWING ON COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK FACILITIES, INCLUDING IBRD, EXIM-BANK, AND ARAB AND EUROPEAN BANKS.

B. TOURE SAID THAT CANADA IS READY TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MIFERGUI-NIMBA -- WATER, ELECTRICITY, AND THE RAILROAD FROM MINE TO LIBERIAN BORDER -- AND SAID SOGRAMCAN AND DYNAME WOULD BE INVOLVED PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER 1974. HE SAID CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES WILL COME TO CONAKRY IN MAY WITH COMPLETE PLANS FOR PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE.  
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C. TOURE SAID ONE GERMAN AND ONE DUTCH FIRM ARE JOINTLY INTERESTED IN A FOUR-PERCENT STOCK PARTICIPATION IN MIFERGUI-NIMBA AND PROPOSE TO TAKE 1.2 MILLION TONS OF THE MINE'S OUTPUT. THE GERMAN/DUTCH COMBINE WANTED AN ANSWER WITHIN THREE MONTHS BUT HE HAD GOT THEM TO ACCEPT A DELAY TO AUGUST 16, BY WHICH TIME HE HOPES TO HAVE U.S. STEEL'S RESPONSE.

D. TOURE SAID REYNOLDS METAL IS VERY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN DABOLA PROJECT AND HAD SUGGESTED A DOUBLING OF THE ALUMINA CAPACITY AT THE OUTSET TO 2 MILLION TONS. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S INQUIRY, TOURE SAID IT IS ENVISIONED REYNOLDS WOULD BOTH CONSTRUCT AND MANAGE THE DABOLA FACILITY. HE SAID REYNOLDS WILL BE GOING TO LAGOS FOR THE JUNE MEETING OF THE DABOLA GROUP. INFRASTRUCTURAL WORK ON THE RAILROAD AND PORT FACILITIES RELATED TO DABOLA WOULD TAKE FOUR YEARS, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE MINE FACILITIES COULD BE GOING ON CONCURRENTLY.

3. AMBASSADOR VOICED SATISFACTION AT POSITIVE

ACCOMPLISHMENT AT MONROVIA SUMMIT AND SAID THIS SHOULD GREATLY FACILITATE REGIONAL COOPERATION, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF GAMBIA AND SENEGAL RIVER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES AND GUINEA'S KEY ROLE IN THEM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE WAY IS NOW CLEARED FOR ACTIVE GOG PARTICIPATION IN BOTH SCHEMES. TOURE AGREED THAT THIS WAS SO AND SEEMED TO EXPECT GOG WOULD BEGIN TO MOVE ON THESE PROJECTS BEFORE LONG.

F. TOURE SPOKE ENTHUSIASTICALLY OF HIS MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN, AFFIRMED GOG DEDICATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT DEROGATE FROM THE INTERESTS OF SOCIETY AS A WHOLE. AMBASSADOR TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSCORE BOTH DEPTH  
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OF US ADHERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES AND HARD, PRACTICAL BEARING THIS HAS ON POTENTIAL FOR US AID AND OTHER ECONOMIC RELATIONS. TOURE SAID HE ENTIRELY UNDERSTOOD.

G. TOURE SAID HE HAD HAD A FRANK, USEFUL TALK WITH EXIM-BANK BUT HAD NOT AGREED TO RELEASE OF IMF DATA ABOUT GUINEA'S INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL STANDING. TOURE SAID IT WAS LEFT THAT EXIM WOULD SEND GOG A LETTER, REQUESTING THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION IT WANTED. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE WE HAVE INDICATIONS EXIM IS FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD ASSISTANCE FOR GUINEA, PROVISION OF THE REQUESTED ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL DATA IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL IF EXIM IS TO UNDERTAKE ANYTHING ON GUINEA'S BEHALF.

3. COMMENT: IN SUM, ISMAEL TOURE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. HE ENJOYED HIS MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR HARROP AND AF/W AND WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE PREPARATIONS THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY HAD MADE TO FACILITATE HIS PROGRAM. WE SHARE HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENT HANDLING OF HIS APPOINTMENTS; ONCE AGAIN, STYLE AND SPEED OF RESPONSE ARE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN DEALING WITH GOG. WE ARE IMPRESSED AND PLEASED THAT REYNOLDS APPEARS TO HAVE COME SO FAR SO QUICKLY TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN DABOLA. WE ONLY HOPE TOURE HAS NOT MISINTERPRETED THEIR REACTION; HE IS NOTORIOUS FOR HIS WISHFUL (AND WILLFUL) OPTIMISM.

4. IF WE COULD HAVE COPY OF EXIM REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL DATA, WHEN SUBMITTED, WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSE FROM THIS END.  
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## Message Attributes

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